

Andrew Jackson to Samuel Houston, August 11, 1825, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SAM HOUSTON.¹

¹ Sam Houston was representative in Congress 1823–1827. He was elected governor of Tennessee in 1827 by a large majority. In 1829, a few weeks after his marriage, he abandoned his office and his wife and took refuge with the Indians west of the Mississippi.

Hermitage, August 11, 1825.

Dear Sir, your letter of the 8th instant was handed me to day, and I am pleased to be informed that you are fully advised of “all the circumstances that surround you”, being fearfull you were not, gave rise to the wish communicated thro Doctor Armstrong to you, of seeing you before you *set out for Kentucky* ; Colo. Butler for the same reasons, had a great desire to have seen you, but advised as you are, enables you to *Judgefor yourself the course proper to pursue*.

It is true, I am the friend of Major Eaton, I am no less your *friend* ; and it is well known I never abandon my friend without *good cause*. I know Major Eaton was your friend, and had a wish so to continue, but if I really know him, and I think I do, he will court no mans friendship. as you and myself have fully conversed this matter over, I shall for the present add no more, barely bringing to your view the old adage “O that mine enemy would write a Book”, and requesting you my young friend to profit by it.

The ballance of your letter I really cannot comprehend; I am fearful your fancy was riding on imagination and fiction, “your enemies on the house top etc. etc. etc.” and the “declarations of Major Wm. B. Lewis and others etc. etc. etc.” I cannot comprehend, I wish

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you had been more explicit— *it requires explanation before 1 can understand it. will await your explanation.* There is one thing I can assure you I fear not eve “ *droppers* ”, nothing falls from my lips injurious to my friends. I take principle for my guide, Justice the end in view, and I have no fears from secrets being revealed, always secure in the rectitude of my conduct with regard to my friends.

Mrs. J. Joins with me in best wishes for you—present me respectfully to Mrs. Catron and they ladies of your party.

I am respectfully yr friend.